

# PETERSBURG RANGER DISTRICT



## TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

October 2006

Hello,

The Forest Service is seeking your involvement regarding a proposal to provide timber for the Tongass National Timber Sale Program. The proposed project would occur on Kupreanof Island on the Petersburg Ranger District, Tongass National Forest.

The Central Kupreanof timber sale project area is approximately 178,895 acres and is located on northwest Kupreanof Island south of Kake. The existing road system will provide access to much of the area. The existing log transfer facility at Little Hamilton Bay would be used.

This letter includes a pre-addressed sheet for you to write your comments and return to the district. You can also call us at 907-772-3871, or fax your comments to 907-772-5995. Comments may also be e-mailed to [comments-alaska-tongass-petersburg@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass-petersburg@fs.fed.us). Please write Central Kupreanof in the subject line. It would be most helpful to have comments by October 31, 2006. However, comments will be accepted any time.

We look forward to your participation. Your input and ideas will help ensure a successful assessment. Thank you for taking the time to help manage your National Forest!

Sincerely,

PATRICIA A. GRANTHAM  
Petersburg District Ranger

### **Notice of Intent (NOI)**

Published in the *Federal Register*

**October/ November 2006**

Forest Service intends to prepare an EIS.

### **Scoping**

Public is invited to identify potential issues for the EIS

### **Meetings**

Time and location of public meetings will be announced in local newspapers and on local radio stations. The public is welcome to provide comments during meetings.

### **Draft EIS**

Anticipated release for public comment.

**Winter 2007**

### **Public Comment Period**

At least 45 days from publication of availability of the Draft EIS in the *Federal Register*.

**Winter 2007**

### **Final EIS & Record of Decision (ROD)**

Anticipated in the Spring of 2007.

## Central Kupreanof

### Proposed Action

The Central Kupreanof Timber Sale project has begun and is expected to propose a range of timber harvest levels of up to 80 million board feet (mmbf).

Field crews spent the summer (2006) on Central Kupreanof gathering data. Field work included wildlife surveys, stream mapping, fish surveys, sensitive plant surveys, soil investigations, heritage surveys, road planning and timber plots. Collected data are currently being synthesized.

The enclosed map shows the initial *draft* unit pool for the Central Kupreanof project. The final unit pool will most likely look different than the preliminary. As information is updated with the field data, unit boundaries may change in response to environmental concerns, units may be dropped from the unit pool and units investigated on the ground may be added. Potential roads may also change location based on field investigations and GIS layers will be fine-tuned as the project progresses. The development of a Forest Plan amendment is in progress as directed by the court. The unit pool may also be affected by this. Despite unit pool changes that may occur, the map does offer a general sense of where the project will propose harvest.

### Central Kupreanof Facts

Central Kupreanof is located on the Petersburg Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest. The project area is on Kupreanof Island off of the Kake road system. It includes approximately 178,895 acres. Its boundaries follow the boundary lines of value comparison units (VCUs) 429, 438, 426, 436, 427.1 (see enclosed map).

All but 7 acres of the Central Kupreanof project area is within National Forest Lands. The project area contains parts of the Castle, Rocky Pass, North Kupreanof, and South Kupreanof Inventoried Roadless areas. Approximately

149,465 acres of inventoried roadless area is included within the project area boundary.

The following chart displays the Forest Plan land use designation (LUD) acres allocated in the Central Kupreanof project area. The allocation of LUDs is comparable to land use zoning for a community. Each “zone,” or LUD, has certain uses that may occur there, and those that may not.

<b>Land Use Designation</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Remote Recreation	181
Semi-remote Recreation	12,565
Old-growth Habitat	22,294
Scenic Viewshed	4,878
Modified Landscape	4,986
Timber Production	133,984
Non-national Forest	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>178,895</b>

The Central Kupreanof Timber Sale will help move the LUDs where units occur toward the desired future conditions of those LUDs as specified in the Forest Plan. It will do this by: (a) managing suitable timber lands for the production of saw timber and other wood products on a sustained basis (Timber Production LUD, pg. 3-144); (b) allowing for a variety of successional stages that provide for a range of wildlife habitat conditions (Modified Landscape LUD, pgs. 3-135 and 3-136); and (c) the use of small openings or uneven-aged systems (Scenic Viewshed LUD, pg. 3-127). Forested land is classified as unsuitable for timber production in the Old-growth Habitat, Semi-remote Recreation and Remote Recreation LUDs. No units for the Central Kupreanof Timber Sale are proposed within these non-development LUDs.

## **Recent, Current and Future Management Activities in the Central Kupreanof Area**

A recent project within the Central Kupreanof area includes the Kupreanof Island Analysis which was completed in September 2000. Road maintenance within the project area is ongoing.

Other than the proposed project, there are no ongoing or planned timber sales within the Central Kupreanof project area at this time.

On the Lindenburg Peninsula of Kupreanof Island, timber harvest activities have been taking place during the summer 2006 and are expected to continue in 2007. Lindenburg Peninsula is located on the SE corner of the island and the road system does not connect to the proposed project area.

The Scott Peak Project Area Record of Decision was released in October 2006 and approves the harvest of approximately 8.3 million board feet (mmbf). The Scott Peak project area is located in the NE corner of Kupreanof Island and is on the opposite side of Duncan Canal. The project areas are not connected by a road system.

## **Past Management Activities**

### **Managed stands**

Within the project area there are 3,359 acres of management stands. Timber harvest in the area began in 1967. The most recent harvest took place in 1998.

### **Road density**

There are approximately 80 miles of existing road in the project area.

### **Fishpasses**

The Upper Keku fishpass is within the project and was completed in 1985 to provide fish passage for steelhead and coho. The Keku fishpass is upstream from the Irish Creek fish pass.

## **Preliminary Issues**

Comments made in the Kupreanof Landscape Assessment and past comments on Kupreanof

Island projects were reviewed along with a review of the project area and field inventories. The following concerns have tentatively been identified as possible issues:

- **Subsistence:** This area is used for subsistence fisheries and deer and moose hunting. The road system links residents of Kake to the Forest and to subsistence use areas.
- **Road Management:** Includes the construction of new roads and the management of existing roads.
- **Timber Economics:** Relates to the viability of the local timber economies and the potential employment and revenues generated by the project. The Central Kupreanof EIS will look at economic small sale opportunities and the possibility of incorporating green firewood and single tree collection into the project.

## **What are your thoughts about this area?**

Your input and ideas are important in completing the Central Kupreanof Environmental Impact Statement. We want to know how you use the peninsula and how you would like to see it managed. The following questions are just a few examples of the types of information that would help us. They are not intended to limit your comments.

How do you feel about road construction and management in the area?

Do you have any concerns about wildlife in the area?

How much and from where should timber be harvested in this area?

How do you use the area?

What areas and resources are most important to you and how would like them managed?

Please fill out the attached comment sheet and return to us. We want to hear all of your ideas; however, comments are most helpful when they refer to specific areas or resources within the project area.



NOTE: Forest Service public mailing lists may be made available to those who request them under the Freedom of Information Act. Your name and address cannot remain confidential if you are on the mailing list.

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b>	I want to stay on the Central Kupreanof EIS mailing list. Please send all future project information to my current address, printed below.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>	I do not wish to remain on the Central Kupreanof EIS mailing list. Please do not send any further information regarding this project.

If you do not check a box or do not return this form, then we will assume that you do not wish to remain on the mailing list.

Please send future Central Kupreanof EIS information in:

- CD
- Hard Copy

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Fold , staple, stamp, and mail -----

From:

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(return address requested)

TO:

Petersburg Ranger District  
Tongass National Forest  
Attn: Tiffany Benna, Team Leader  
Central Kupreanof EIS  
P.O. Box 1328  
Petersburg, AK 99833

..... Petersburg Ranger District .....

Tongass National Forest

**Comments requested by  
October 31, 2006.**

